

In the Claims

Claims 1 - 22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A surface treated steel sheet comprising:

a steel sheet;

a plating layer containing at least one metal selected from the group consisting of zinc and aluminum on at least one surface of the steel sheet; and

a chromium-free film on the plating layer, the film containing 1) at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, and Zn, 2) a tetravalent vanadium compound, and 3) a phosphoric acid group.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 23, wherein the amount of adhesion of the tetravalent vanadium compound per one surface is about 1 to about 200 mg/m² in terms of vanadium.

26. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 23, wherein the amount of adhesion of phosphoric acid group per one surface is about 5 to about 800 mg/m² in terms of phosphorous.

27. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 23, wherein the thickness of the film is about 5 μm or less.

28. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 23, wherein the film further contains an organic resin.

29. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 28, wherein the amount of adhesion of the organic resin per one surface is about 0.5 to about 5 g/m².

30. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 28, wherein the organic resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of water-soluble organic resins and water-dispersible organic resins.

31. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 28, wherein the organic resin is a copolymer resin of styrene (a), (meth)acrylic acid (b), a (meth)acrylic ester (c) including an alkyl chain having the carbon number of 1 to 6, and an olefin (d) capable of copolymerizing with these components (a) to (c).

32. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 31, wherein the organic resin has a solid content of styrene (a) of 20 to 60 percent by mass, a solid content of (meth)acrylic acid (b) of about 0.5 to about 10 percent by mass, and a solid content of (meth)acrylic ester (c) including an alkyl chain having the carbon number of 1 to 6 of about 20 to about 60 percent by mass relative to 100 percent by mass of solid content of the copolymer resin.

33. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 23, further comprising an organic resin coating layer having a thickness of about 0.01 to about 5 μm on the surface of the film.

34. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 23, comprising the surface treatment film in which the amount of adhesion of the organic resin per one surface is about 0.5 to about 5 g/m^2 .

35. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 33, wherein the organic resin is at least one resin selected from the group consisting of water-soluble organic resins and water-dispersible organic resins.

36. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 33, wherein the organic resin is a copolymer resin of styrene (a), (meth)acrylic acid (b), a (meth)acrylic ester (c)

including an alkyl chain having the carbon number of 1 to 6, and an olefin (d) capable of copolymerizing with these components (a) to (c).

37. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 36, wherein the organic resin has a solid content of styrene (a) of about 20 to about 60 percent by mass, a solid content of (meth)acrylic acid (b) of about 0.5 to about 10 percent by mass, and a solid content of (meth)acrylic ester (c) including an alkyl chain having the carbon number of 1 to 6 of about 20 to about 60 percent by mass relative to 100 percent by mass of solid content of the copolymer resin.

38. (Previously Presented) The surface treated steel sheet according to claim 23, wherein the plating is an alloy plating of zinc and aluminum, containing about 25 to about 75 percent by mass of aluminum.

39-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) A surface treated steel sheet exhibiting excellent corrosion resistance and film appearance, ~~the surface treated~~ comprising:

a steel sheet characterized in that:

a chromium-free surface treatment film containing i) a vanadium compound having a valence of four, ii) a phosphoric compound, and iii) a compound of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Al, Mg, and Zn; is

disposed on a surface of a plating layer on a surface of the steel sheet ~~plated with and~~ comprising at least one type selected from the group consisting of a zinc based type, an aluminum based type, and an Al-Zn based type.

45-47. (Cancelled)